



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE
STATE OF BAJA CALIFORNIA OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES
ON RISK PREVENTION AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

WHEREAS the States of California and Baja California share a common border, a cultural connection and a history of cooperation in times of emergency;

WHEREAS the States of California and Baja California share many geographical, agricultural, and economic similarities;

WHEREAS the rapid population growth in urban areas along the border has resulted in demands on virtually all governmental and social institutions;

WHEREAS in the well-established spirit of friendship and cooperation, both states intend to cooperate to effectively reduce the risk of, and respond to, threats to the public health, safety and welfare of their border communities. This Memorandum of Understanding describes the cooperation between the States of California and Baja California to prevent and respond more effectively to emergencies that may occur in or near border communities.

THEREFORE WE INTEND TO:

- Ensure that in areas of common concern, plans for the emergency use of labor resources, material resources, supplies, systems and services shall; where feasible and practicable, be compatible and involve mutual training.
- Design cooperation projects within our own jurisdictions to study, research and provide technical training in risks and natural disasters, in order to develop procedures and techniques for the prevention, mitigation and preparation of response and rebuilding efforts in cooperation with the appropriate authorities of each State and in accordance with applicable laws.
- Design communication strategies to apply in the event of emergencies and disasters, in accordance with applicable law.
- Share information and experience on emergency preparedness, response and recovery.
- Recognize that the decision to render aid to the Sister State rests ultimately with the Director of Emergency Management in the aiding State. A State may decide not to render aid, depending on the circumstances.

The parties acknowledge that this Memorandum of Understanding is not intended to create any legally binding rights or obligations, and will not be enforceable in any court of law in the United States of America or the United Mexican States. The parties commit themselves in good will to implement this Memorandum to the fullest extent practicable, subject to any changes in policy that they may adopt.

Signed in the City of Sacramento, California on the 20th day of October, 2009.
Two original copies in English and Spanish, both versions being equally valid.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
STATE OF BAJA CALIFORNIA
UNITED MEXICAN STATES**

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor
State of California

JOSÉ GUADALUPE OSUNA MILLÁN
Governor
State of Baja California

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California Emergency Management Agency

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